Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A system for accelerating data transfer between networked databases, comprising:

a plurality of databases coupled by a network; and

at least one laser unit coupled to each database for communicating data between the databases via free space by way of a laser beam at a rate faster than that which the network is capable; and

a data rate monitor operative to enable said at least one laser unit when said data rate meets a condition wherein data communication is improved using said at least one laser unit.

2. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network includes a router.

3. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the network is an Ethernet.

4. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each laser unit is mounted on the associated database.

5. (original) The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein a plurality of laser units are mounted on each of the databases.

6. (original) The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein the laser units move with two degrees of freedom.

7. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each laser unit includes a transmitter and a receiver.

8. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the databases are positioned in a single housing.

9. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the housing has a reflective surface positioned therein for reflecting the laser beam between the laser units.

10. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the housing has a substantially hemi-spherical configuration.

11. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the housing has a substantially spherical configuration.

12. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser units communicate the data between the databases upon a rate of the communication exceeding a predetermined amount.

13. (currently amended) A system for accelerating data transfer between networked databases, comprising:

a plurality of databases coupled by a network;

at least one laser unit coupled to each database for communicating data between the databases via free space by way of a laser beam at a rate faster than that which the network is capable; and

a data rate monitor operative to enable said at least one laser unit when said data rate meets a condition wherein data communication is improved using said at least one laser unit;

~~The system as set forth in claim 12,~~ wherein the laser units communicate the data between the databases upon a rate of the communication exceeding a predetermined amount to a single address in one of the databases.

14. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser units are movably positioned into alignment prior to communicating.

15. (original) The system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the laser units are movably positioned based on a look-up table.

16. (currently amended) A system for accelerating data transfer between networked databases, comprising:

a plurality of databases coupled by a network;

at least one laser unit coupled to each database for communicating data between the databases via free space by way of a laser beam at a rate faster than that which the network is capable; and

a data rate monitor operative to enable said at least one laser unit when said data rate meets a condition wherein data communication is improved using said at least one laser unit;

~~The system as set forth in claim 1,~~ wherein the laser beam of the laser units is traced prior to the laser units communicating the data in order to determine whether the laser units are capable of communicating the data.

17. (original) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein an alternate path for the laser beam is determined if the trace is unsuccessful.

18. (original) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the data is communicated via the network if the trace is unsuccessful.

19-28. (canceled)

29. (withdrawn) A high-speed network platform comprising:

a support structure defining a concave construct;

a plurality of computing units associated with a corresponding plurality of lasers capable of developing laser beams and laser detectors responsive to said laser beams, said plurality of lasers and laser detectors being associated with said concave construct and positioned such that each of said lasers has a line of sight to a plurality of laser detectors; and

laser aiming mechanisms to allowing laser communication between computing units.

30. (currently amended) A multi-mode network comprising;

a non-laser network having a first maximum transmission rate;

a laser network having a second maximum transmission rate greater than said first maximum transmission rate;

a plurality of computing units coupled to both said non-laser network and said laser network; and

a data switch transferring data from said non-laser network to at least one free space laser when a data rate of said network is determined to be better handled by said laser network.

31. (currently amended) A method for providing a multi-mode network comprising;

sensing a data rate between a first node and a second node that are coupled together by both a non-laser transmission medium and a free space laser transmission medium; and

switching between said non-laser transmission medium and said laser transmission medium based upon said data rate.

32. (withdrawn) A method for aiming a laser communication device comprising:

developing an environmental simulation for a communication laser on a computer system;

determining whether it is possible that a laser beam from said communication laser can reach a desired target according to said environmental simulation; and

developing aiming parameters if it is possible that the laser beam can reach said desired target.